

Application: 23138

Volunteer Initiative Program

Page: Applicant Information

Credit Union

Harvard University Employees Credit Union

Project Title

Volunteer Initiative Program

Category

More than \$1 billion in assets

First Name

Terrence

Last Name

Bazile

Email Address

Terrence_bazile@Harvard.edu

Credit Union Address

Harvard University Employees Credit Union

104 Mount Auburn Street | Cambridge, MA 02138

Page: Dora Maxwell Program

The Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award

The Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award is given to a credit union or chapter/multiple credit union group for its social responsibility projects within the community. The award is given for external activities.

As you work on your submission you will see varying formats in which questions will be answered. Some will require only numbers, while others will require much more time and thought. You are able to save and come back at any time (until you submit).

Things to Remember:

- Most text boxes do not have character limits and you are able to format as you wish (bolding, italics, underlining, bullets...).
- You are able to skip questions that are required, but you will need to go back and answer them before you submit your project. (If you do not have anything for a question, please insert n/a in the text box provided.)
- Please include any documentation and promotional material you wish. We look forward to seeing your projects in electronic format (videos, audio, Facebook, Twitter, news articles...).

Page: Credit Union Information

Credit Union's Field of Membership

Associational

City & State Location

Harvard Square Branch 104 Mount Auburn Street Cambridge, MA 02138

How many members does your credit union have?

52884

How many employees does your credit union have?

152

Is your credit union a member of CUNA?

Yes

Page: Project Submission Form

The Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award recognizes a credit union or chapter/multiple credit union group for its social responsibility and charitable project's that support its community.

Below are a series of questions about your project. There is also a place in the last page of this application to attach applicable documents and weblinks. Feel free to refer to these attachments in your answers here.

In 150 words or less, please give a high-level overview of your submission.

Harvard University Employees Credit Union takes pride in putting action behind its core value of being a benefit. We benefit our local community through a three-pronged approach. First, we deliver free personal finance presentations to groups in our field of membership, because we believe it is our duty to empower our members with resources and education to promote financial wellness. Second, we have championed a Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP) that allows our staff to volunteer and donate to local non-profits in our community. Our VIP program serves two purposes; it fosters team building internally and allows us to provide boots-on-the-ground support at the local level. Third, we donate funds to these same organizations and others by the direction of our own Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging committee to ensure our donations are cognizant and targeted towards combating inequalities and insecurities in our local community.

Why does this project best represent the cooperative principle of concern for community?

Harvard University Employees Credit Union (HUECU) takes pride in fostering meaningful partnerships and contributions in our local community through our Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP). VIP allows our staff to volunteer and donate to local non-profits in our extended community. Annually, employee donations are matched up to \$50, and every employee is gifted \$10 to donate to an organization of their choice. Additionally, employees receive additional funds to donate as part of our employee recognition program. Since 2022's launch of VIP, we have volunteered with 9 organizations, for a total of over 400 volunteer hours and counting. VIP has helped non-profits that focus on food insecurities, housing insecurities, education, social justice, and animals.

How many employees were involved in implementing this project?

The Volunteer Initiative Program is overseen by the Community Engagement Team, which has three members.

Who participated in this project? How did you balance paid/volunteer time for your employees as you completed this project?

The Community Engagement Team created the Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP). With the support and buy-in from senior leadership, HUECU employees are able to allocate a minimum of 7 hours per year to volunteer.

Has your credit union submitted this project before?

No

If yes, what changes have been made to distinguish this entry from previous submissions?

N/A

Please list any additional community service projects your credit union was involved in.

In addition to the Volunteer Initiative Program, HUECU also participates in races, steps challenges, and book drives which benefit local nonprofits, including area hospitals. HUECU also donates to local organizations, last year we donated over \$150,000.

3.2 Mile Run Walk for Ben

HUECU employees and their friends, family, and pets participated a 3.2 run/walk for Ben Abercrombie. In his collegiate football debut at Harvard College, Ben made a tackle that resulted in a catastrophic spinal cord injury and caused him to lose mobility and feeling throughout his body. The 3.2 Run/Walk helped raised funds for his medical expenses and transportation.

B.A.A. 10K

A team of HUECU employees and members run the B.A.A. 10K annually to raise money for Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH).

BWH Stepping Strong Challenge

HUECU is an annual participant in Brigham and Women’s Hospital’s (BWH) Stepping Strong Challenge that raises money to support trauma patients at The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation. The center was created after the Boston Marathon bombing, to transform care for civilians and military heroes who suffer traumatic injuries.

Children’s Book Drive

HUECU members and staff donated over 150 books to the Cooperative Credit Union Association (CCUA) Book Drive to support A Bed for Every Child.

Domestic Violence Awareness Drive

HUECU partnered with the Transition House and the YWCA Cambridge to collect items for individuals affected by Domestic Violence. HUECU members and staff gathered 60+ bottles of shampoo, shower sandals, deodorant, and other products in order to aid in recovery.

Friends of Cambridge Athletics (FOCA) 5K

HUECU walks, runs and supports the annual 5K. FOCA is a local volunteer, parent-led non-profit organization that supports Cambridge Rindge and Latin School athletic teams and clubs.

HUECU High School Scholarship Program

Annually, HUECU awards ten high school seniors \$1,500 scholarships for their undergraduate degree. A volunteer Scholarship Review Committee, comprised of HUECU members, selects the winners.

Harvard Undergraduate Veterans Organization (HUVU) Veteran’s Day Challenge

HUECU employees ran and up and down all 37 sections of the historic Harvard Stadium to help raise money to support HUVU and Home Base, a partnership of the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) 5K

HUECU staff ran to support SHC, which transforms lives by providing services, support, resources and housing to well over 5,000 men, women, and children.

Writing For Climate Change Essay Contest

In collaboration with Harvard’s Office for Sustainability, HUECU hosts and provides prizes for a Writing for the Climate Change Essay Contest for Harvard University students.

Page: Project Information

What were the specific, measurable goals of your project?

The goal of VIP was to reach 200 volunteer hours in the first year and 500 in the next year. We reached the first goal, and are on our way to reach the second year’s goal.

Through VIP, over 400 volunteer hours have affected our community. We have partnered with over a dozen non-profits. We have been able to pack over 1,000 boxes of meals to families, and 96 boxes of clothes and 40 bags of trash from the Esplanade and Charles River Bank, and donated over 150 books.

What strategies were implemented to reach the project's goals?

The Community Engagement Team communicates through intranet posts, emails, Slack messages, and meetings to inform staff of the Volunteer Initiative Project. We also implemented the use of Millie, a social impact platform that allows us to track volunteer opportunities, hours and match employee donations.

What were the specific, measurable results achieved?

HUECU employees have volunteered over 400 hours since the program began. An additional achievement was an increase in engagement in our social posts where we shared pictures of our employees volunteering.

Define the project's target audience(s).

VIP targets HUECU employees. The volunteer events target the Cambridge, Somerville, and metro Boston Area.

HUECU employees were involved from every department. The VIP benefited Boston, Cambridge, and extend communities.

How did the project impact the community?

The project positively influenced the community by fostering a sense of unity, promoting social responsibility, and addressing the needs of the local community. By encouraging volunteerism and engaging with social media platforms, we enhanced our cooperative principle of concern for the community.

Please explain which of the 8 cooperative principles that govern credit unions your project supports and how it supports them

HUECU is governed by education. We believe that providing financial education to our members and community is vital for financial equity and success. We have developed a personal finance program, Thrive Financial Wellness, which makes financial education accessible. We provide free financial presentations, counseling, videos, e-courses, and flyers.

Page: Attachments

Credit Union Logo

Download File (https://cunaawards.secure-platform.com/file/51405/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo1MTQwNSwiYWxsYXN0b3R0aWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImNmOgTpxKhI_96R8Iy0LBRVLEyA?HUECU%20logo.png)

Attachment 1

Download File (https://cunaawards.secure-platform.com/file/51408/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo1MTQwOCwiYWxsYXN0b3R0aWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImNmOgTpxKhI_96R8Iy0LBRVLEyA?40th%20Annual%20Jimmy%20Fund%20Cooper%20Bowl.pdf)

Attachment 2

Download File (https://cunaawards.secure-platform.com/file/51409/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo1MTQwOSwiYWxsYXN0b3R0aWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImNmOgTpxKhI_96R8Iy0LBRVLEyA?Charles%20River%20Clean%20Up.pdf)

Attachment 3

Download File (https://cunaawards.secure-platform.com/file/51410/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo1MTQwMCwiYWxsYXN0b3R0aWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImNmOgTpxKhI_96R8Iy0LBRVLEyA?EdBeE6Pwh_A5qRPKOC7KzuRrv2oaTxY?Children-s%20Book%20Drive.pdf)

Attachment 4

Download File (https://cunaawards.secure-platform.com/file/51411/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo1MTQwMSwiYWxsYXN0b3R0aWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImNmOgTpxKhI_96R8Iy0LBRVLEyA?uvtYLAAsBAhC0I?Cradles%20to%20Crayons.pdf)

Attachment 5

Download File (https://cunaawards.secure-platform.com/file/51412/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo1MTQwMiwiYWxsYXN0b3R0aWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImNmOgTpxKhI_96R8Iy0LBRVLEyA?kNVajRZUVKKBksnJRpT-6F0aM57QGT0-NLDGk?Esplande%20Clean%20Up.pdf)

Attachment 6

Download File (https://cunaawards.secure-platform.com/file/51413/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo1MTQwMywiYWxsYXN0b3R0aWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImNmOgTpxKhI_96R8Iy0LBRVLEyA?GZLjdz_-96Qcjin87A?HUECU%20Takes%20Giant%20Steps%20for%20BWH-s%20Stepping%20Strong%20Challenge.pdf)

Attachment 7

Download File (https://cunaawards.secure-platform.com/file/51414/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo1MTQwNCwiYWxsYXN0b3R0aWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImNmOgTpxKhI_96R8Iy0LBRVLEyA?Middle%20School%20Scholarship.pdf)

Attachment 8

No File Uploaded

Weblink 1

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/myhuecu/mycompany/> (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/myhuecu/mycompany/>)

Weblink 2

<https://www.ccu.org/dailyscan/article/huecu-awards-scholarships-to-ten-high-school-students> (<https://www.ccu.org/dailyscan/article/huecu-awards-scholarships-to-ten-high-school-students>)

Weblink 3

<https://www.ccu.org/dailyscan/article/harvard-university-employees-cu-lends-a-hand-at-food-for-free> (<https://www.ccu.org/dailyscan/article/harvard-university-employees-cu-lends-a-hand-at-food-for-free>)

Is there anything else you would like to include or make judges aware of?

VIP has been off to a great start and HUECU looks forward to expanding the program to include volunteer opportunities for members. While VIP started as an internal program for HUECU employees, its success has inspired people outside of HUECU. Harvard departments and schools have reached out to HUECU for advice on how to start their own VIP.

Additionally, one of our Community Engagement Specialists was chosen by Millie to participate in Millie's Changemaker Collective - a 5-month cohort program that brought together social impact leaders to create and sustain a social impact network. He has also been asked to be a speaker on a panel to share best practices for starting a Volunteer Initiative Program.

HUECU is proud to be making a difference through our Volunteer Initiative Program and inspiring others to start their own program.

Acknowledgements

I acknowledge that photos submitted may be used to promote future awards programs by CUNA or the League., The person listed can serve as a contact for this submission, the Organization name is listed as it should appear on any award won, and that the address listed is accurate and able to receive a shipment, should this application win an award., All information provided is correct, to the best of the submitter's knowledge., If this project was a collaboration with other credit unions, I've informed the other collaborators of this application and discussed the option of submitting as a Chapter award.

Thank you!